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BOOK MESSAGE AS BELOW

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MUNI RAGH KHAR LISS COPE MASO BEIR LEOP MEX I FROB REUD
DAMA RABA NOBI HAGU VIRE KAH I TPLI SAGO HEID ATHE JIDD
THIS CYRU TEKE CNBR OSLO CAIR MOGA PACY GIVA BOME FRAN

PERIODIC

NEAR EAST - AFRICA BRIEF

(INFO IN SLANTS. REMAINING INFO RELEASEABLE TO LIASISON.)

1. CYPRUS: //EXPLOSION OF A BOMB AT THE BASE OF A MONUMENT TO A GREEK CYPRIOT IN NICOSIA ON 3 DEC IS LIKELY TO CONTRIBUTE TO A FURTHER DETERIORATION IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITIES. THE INCIDENT FOLLOWED PRESIDENT MAKARIOS' STORMY, BUT STILL UNPUBLISHED, PRESENTATION TO TURKISH CYPRIOT VICE PRESIDENT EUCHUK OF THE GREEKS' DEMANDS FOR REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION. REPORTS THAT A GREEK CYPRIOT PARAMILITARY FORCE RECENTLY HAS BEEN RECEIVING INTENSIVE TRAINING UNDER A GREEK ARMY OFFICER STATIONED ON CYPRUS ARE ANOTHER INDICATION OF THE INCREASINGLY TENSE ATMOSPHERE ON THE ISLAND. //

2. EGYPT - SAUDI ARABIA: CAIRO MAY BE PREPARING A MAJOR PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE KING OF SAUDI ARABIA IN ANTICIPATION OF A NEW CRISIS OVER THE VERMEY DISRENGAGEMENT ISSUE. RECENT EGYPTIAN

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RADIOBROADCASTS HAVE BEEN EXCEPTIONALLY CRITICAL OF THE US-SAUDI RELATIONSHIP. THIS WEEK BOTH THE VOICE OF THE ARAB AND THE CLARINETTEUR VOICE OF THE ARAB NATION VICTORIOUSLY ATTACHED THE US OIL COMPANY IN SAUDI ARABIA AND THE US USE OF ISRAELAI AIRFIELD THERE AS REINFORCING US EXPLOITATION AND DOMINATION. (CONT)

3. IRAQ: //ANTI-BAATHIST OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE BEGUN TO ELIMINATE BAATHIST INFLUENCE IN THE REGIME//

//THE BAATHIST MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, A LEADER IN THE MODERATE FACTION OF THE PARTY, HAS BEEN BOUGHT OUT OF OFFICE AND EXILED TO BEIRUT WITH SEVERAL ASSOCIATES. BAATHIST VICE PRESIDENT BAHR REPORTEDLY IS ALSO LEAVING THE COUNTRY. HASSAN TIKRITI, A STRONG BAATHIST WHO HOLDS THE KEY DEFENSE MINISTRY POST, HAS REQUESTED A BRITISH VISA.//

//PURSUITS FOR A MOVE AGAINST BAATHISTS STILL HOLDING POSITIONS OF POWER HAVE BEEN GROWING AMONG "ARAB NATIONALIST" ARMY OFFICERS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS DESIRING CLOSER RELATIONS WITH CAIRO. PREMIER ABU ARIF HAS APPARENTLY ACCOMPLISHED IT IN ACTION AGAINST THE BAATHIST BUT HIS ROLE IN THE MOVE IS NOT YET CLEAR.//

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 //WHILE THE ANTI-BAATHIST FACTION NOW APPEARS TO HAVE THE UPPER HAND, THE FATE OF 4TH DIVISION COMMANDER MASRAT IS NOT CERTAIN. A DEDICATED BAATHIST, HE REPORTEDLY HAS SURROUNDED BAGHDAD IN THE EXPECTATION OF A SHOWDOWN. IF HE STILL RETAINS HIS COMMAND HE MAY ATTEMPT TO REDRESS THE PRESENT SITUATION.//

//THE DECAY OF THE BAATHIST POSITION IN IRAQ IS ALMOST CERTAIN TO FURTHER UNDERMINE THE POSITION OF THE PARTY IN NEAR SYRIA.

4. SOMALI: //A RASH OF RAIDS FROM THE NEIGHBORING SOMALI REPUBLIC INTO KENYA'S NORTHEASTERN REGION MAY BE THE START OF A GUERRILLA CAMPAIGN TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE REGION'S SOMALI INHABITANTS ARE DETERMINED TO SECEDE FROM KENYA.//

//IN NOV , GROUPS OF ARMED SOMALIS CONDUCTED AT LEAST TEN WELL-PLANNED RAIDS INTO KENYA FROM SAFE HAVENS ACROSS THE SOMALI BORDER. BRITISH POLICE ESTIMATE THAT OVER 300 SOMALIS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE INCURSIONS AND THEY FEEL THAT THE RAIDERS' RIFLES AND GRENADES PROBABLY CAME FROM SOMALI POLICE STOCKS. RADIO MOGADISCIO HAS LONG BEAMED VITRIOLIC PROPAGANDA BROADCASTS INTO THE NORTHEASTERN REGION.//

//SOMALI GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE CATEGORICALLY DENIED IMPLICATING THE ATTACKS AS SPARKING COMMANDOS FOR OPERATIONS IN KENYA. THERE IS NO HARD EVIDENCE TO REJECT THESE DENIALS. THE MOGADISCIO

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GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, IS FACED WITH BEWIGGLED GENERAL ELECTIONS NEXT MARCH, AND MAY SOON FEEL COMPELLED TO RENDER SOME DIRECT MATERIAL ASSISTANCE. EVEN A MODEST AMOUNT OF MATERIAL SUPPORT FOR THE DISBURSTMENTS COULD RESULT IN A PROLONGED QUIETURE WHICH AVOIDS AN ECONOMIC CRISIS ON KENYA. //

5. NIGER: NIGER PRESIDENT DIGRI'S CONSERVATIVE REGIME HAS BEEN SHAKEN BY THE SUCCESSFUL DEPLACEMENT OF HIS AUTHORITY BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF A KEY ARMY COMPANY. AFTER ORDERING THE OFFICER'S REMOVAL, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE HE HAD AGITATED FOR CERTAIN BENEFITS FOR THE ARMY, DIGRI WAS FORCED TO BACK DOWN WHEN THE OFFICER AND HIS MEN MUTINIED. AN AGREEMENT REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN WORKED OUT BY INTERMEDIARIES, BUT THE ARMY UNIT REMAINS IN CAMP NEAR THE CAPITAL, AND THE INTENTIONS OF ITS COMMANDER ARE UNCLEAR. (CONF)

6. TURKEY: THE TURKISH CABINET CRISIS PERSISTS. PREMIER MINISTER YILMAZ IS MANEUVERING TO SHOW THAT THE OPPOSITION JUSTICE PARTY CANNOT FORM A GOVERNMENT AND MUST REDUCE ITS CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATING IN ONE FORMED BY HIS REPUBLICAN PEOPLES PARTY. CIVILIAN POLITICAL LEADERS LOOK ON A "UNITICAL" COALITION OF ALL PARTIES, FAVORED BY THE VALDARIS. AS A LAST RESORT, OTHER

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7. PAKISTAN: THE DEATH OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER SARKAWARDI DEPRIVES OPPOSITION FORCES IN PAKISTAN OF THE ONE LEADER ABLE TO UNITE THEM AGAINST THE AYUB REGIME. THE OPPOSITION WAS ALREADY DISHEARTENED BY THE GOVERNMENT'S IMPRESSIVE SHOWING IN RECENT BY-ELECTIONS. ALTHOUGH SOMEOPPOSITION LEADERS MAY TRY TO USE THE NEWS OF SARKAWARDI'S DEATH TO FOCUS ANTIREGIME SENTIMENT, THE BASIC EFFECT PROBABLY WILL BE TO DISCOURAGE THE OPPOSITION STILL FURTHER.

8. CONGO (BRAZZAVILLE): THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN BRAZZAVILLE
REMAINS CONFUSED AND HIGHLY UNSTABLE AS THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT
PREPARES FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM AND ELECTIONS.

BOTH THE NEW CONSTITUTION AND THE CANDIDATES FOR THE NATIONAL LEGISLATURE, WHO RUN UNOPPOSED, WILL PROBABLY BE STRONGLY ENDORSED BY THE VOTERS ON 8 DEC.

THE SUPERIOR PRESTIGE OF MODERATE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT LEADER
MASSAMRA-DEBAT MAY SECURE HIS ELECTION TO THE PRESIDENCY WHEN AN
ELECTORAL COLLEGE MEETS THAT DAY OR ON 19 DEC. HIS ELECTION, HOW-
EVER, IS NOT CERTAIN AND IT IS UNCLEAR THAT POWER THE PRESIDENT

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WILL ACTUALLY BE ABLE TO WIELD.

A NUMBER OF LEFTIST UNIONISTS AND YOUTH LEADERS ARE AMONG THE 55 LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES. SOME OF THESE LEFTISTS MAY GET IMPORTANT MINISTERIAL POSTS WHEN THE CABINET IS FORMED LATE THIS MONTH. THEY PROBABLY WILL PRESS THE NEW GOVERNMENT TO ADOPT A MORE RECEPTIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SOVIET BLOC AND MAY CALL FOR THE EARLY ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE USSR.

THE LEFTISTS MAY ALSO SEEK TO EXPLOIT THE TENSE SITUATION WHICH HAS RECENTLY DEVELOPED REGARDING NEIGHBORING CABINDA, WHERE PORTUGUESE POLICE PURSUING NATIONALIST INSURGENTS HAVE CROSSED THE BORDER INTO THE CONGO ON SEVERAL RECENT OCCASIONS. THERE HAVE BEEN CLASHES BETWEEN ~~REBELLION~~ PORTUGUESE AND CONGO ARMY TROOPS. (CONF)

9. MIDDLE EAST OIL: MAJOR INTERNATIONAL oil companies and SECRETARY GENERAL ROUHANI OF THE ORGANIZATION OF PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES (OPEC) STILL HAVE NOT REACHED AGREEMENT IN THEIR NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING INCREASED OIL REVENUE FOR MIDDLE EASTERN PRODUCING COUNTRIES.

BECAUSE THE COMPANIES REFUSE TO RECOGNIZE OPEC AS A BARGAINING AGENT, IRANIAN SAYS HE HAS BEEN TRYING TO GET OPEC MEMBERS.

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HE IS NEGOTIATING, HOWEVER, ON THE BASIS OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT AN OPEC MEETING LAST YEAR.

THE WESTERN OIL CONSORTIUM OPERATING IN IRAN, ACTING AS LEAD MAN FOR THE MAJOR COMPANIES, HAS OFFERED A FORMULA WHICH WOULD INCREASE PAYMENTS TO THE MIDDLE EASTERN GOVERNMENTS BY ABOUT THREE AND A HALF CENTS PER BARREL, BUT ROUHANI UP TO NOW HAS BEEN HOLDING OUT FOR A MUCH LARGER RISE. THERE IS ALSO DISAGREEMENT ON A NUMBER OF POINTS RELATING TO THE METHOD OF CALCULATING THE GOVERNMENTS' SHARES. ON 4 DEC A MEETING OF OPEC REPRESENTATIVES IN BEIRUT ANNOUNCED REJECTION OF THE CONSORCIO'S PROPOSALS.

ROUHANI'S POSITION IS SOMEWHAT WEAKENED BY AN APPARENT TENDENCY OF THREE LEADING OPEC MEMBERS--KUWAIT, SAUDI ARABIA, AND IRAQ--TO TAKE A MORE FLEXIBLE ATTITUDE THAN ROUHANI SEEKS TO FAVOR.

THE OPEC MEMBERS (VENEZUELA, LIBYA, SAUDI ARABIA, QATAR, IRAQ, IRAN, KUWAIT, INDONESIA) WILL DISCUSS POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION AT THEIR NEXT GENERAL CONFERENCE, SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN SAUDI ARABIA 24 DEC AT RIYADH. (CONT)

10. MOROCCO: THE MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT APPARENTLY IS RECONSIDERING A DECISION, AGREED TO ON 18 OCT., TO CESSER DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH

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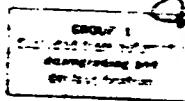
CUBA IN RECALLATION FOR CUBA'S MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ALGERIA.

ON 2 DEC, THE ACTING MOROCCAN FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVED A CUBAN "GOODWILL" TELEGRAM DISPATCHED TO KING HASSAN II TO REESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. AN OFFICIAL IN THE SPANISH EMBASSY IN RABAT, WHO BELIEVES THAT THE RECEIPTION OF THE TELEGRAM INDICATES OFFICIAL REESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS, CLAIMS THAT BOTH DIPLOMATS ARE USING THEIR INFLUENCE TO KEEP THE CUBAN EMBASSY IN MOROCCO.

DESPITE MOROCCO'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT RELATIONS WERE RESTORED WITH CUBA, THE CUBAN AMBASSADOR HAS CONTINUED TO ATTEND FUNCTIONS AND TO FLY THE CUBAN FLAG AT HIS CHANCERY IN RABAT, CREATING SOME EMBARRASSMENT FOR THE MOROCCAN FOREIGN MINISTRY. (CONF)

END OF MESSAGE

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